

Chapter 3. Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Mitigation Measures

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the affected environment (existing conditions) and impacts of the proposed project (with mitigation proposed by OPL as part of the project, as described in Chapter 2). The affected environment discussions summarize information obtained from the amended ASC (OPL 1998); federal and state agency databases, reports, and telephone calls; site visits; and other sources. Sections focus on the main geographical and topical issues of concern. For additional information and details, the reader is referred to the ASC.

Impacts of the project are evaluated in the ~~A~~Environmental Consequences@ subsections assuming that the mitigation proposed by OPL (e.g., best management practices, revegetation, provision of firefighting capabilities, and so forth) is part of project design, planning, construction and operation. Additional mitigation measures beyond those proposed by OPL are suggested if appropriate, together with their potential effect on impacts.

The No Action Alternative assumes that the existing Seattle-Portland pipeline would continue to operate, as it would with the proposal. The No Action Alternative would keep the petroleum product delivery system at a dynamic status quo, which means that the existing pipeline system would remain, and more barges and trucks would be needed to meet demand for product transportation. Therefore, the existing Seattle-Portland pipeline system is a constant with or without the proposal, and the principal difference between No Action and the proposal is that the proposal eliminates most trucking and barging and includes a pipeline, while No Action retains current truck and barge activity and increases them annually above current levels. Impacts of the existing Seattle-Portland pipeline are not discussed in detail with or without the project because they are the same in either case.

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(OPL 1998).....	3.1-1
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